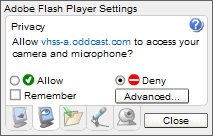
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|  | **Create Your Own Voki!** |  |

Voki is a free online service that allows you to create personalized speaking avatars and use them on your wiki, blog, profile, and in email messages.

1. Go to <http://www.voki.com>. Although you do not need to register for an account and log in, you may want to do so (in the upper right corner) if you’ll want to save your Vokis for future use.
2. If you have logged in, click on  at the top. If you have not logged in, click on  in the middle of the page.
3. In the “Customize Your Voki” box, click on the  button to start to build your avatar. Use the left and right arrows to toggle between different types of avatars. “Classic” is most common, and you can limit to just Male or Female choices.
4. You can also change your avatar’s hair shape  , mouth shape  , and facial hair  .
5. Lastly, use the “Color” and Tweak” box  to alter the color and shape of your avatar’s features.
6. Click on the “Clothing” tab to select an outfit , using the right and left arrows to toggle between types of outfits. Add a hat  if you like.
7. Click on the “Bling” tab to add sunglasses  or a necklace  . Then, click the  button at the bottom of the “Customize Your Voki” box.
8. Now choose a background  by using the right and left arrows to toggle between types of settings. Then, select the color of the frame for your Voki by clicking on .
9. Now it’s time to “Give It A Voice.” THERE IS A ONE MINUTE LIMIT TO THE AUDIO CLIP! You can elect to add a voice in one of four ways: by phone  , by typing text  for the computer voice to say, by recording your own voice using a microphone  or by browsing for an audio file that you have saved  . If you are not using the microphone option, skip to step 11 on the back of this sheet.
10. **When recording, please be sure to click “Allow,” and then “Close” on this pop-up window** . Plug in your headset or microphone, and press  when you’re ready to speak. Press that button again when you’re ready to stop recording. To preview what you’ve recorded, press the  button. If you like it, press “Save,” and if not, press “Cancel,” and you can repeat this step.
11. You can add effects to your audio recording by clicking on the “FX” tab at the bottom of the “Give It a Voice” box. When you are finished customizing your audio, click  at the bottom of the “Give It a Voice” box.
12. Time to “Publish” your work! Click on the  button at the bottom. Create and save a title for your Voki. (If you are not logged in, click the “x” in the upper right of the “You’ve Just Created a Voki Character” pop-up window.) On the right select the size of the player (small, medium, or large). Then, copy the code listed in the  box.
13. You can now add your voki as a widget on your wiki, blog, or social networking site profile by pasting in this code. You can also email your Voki by clicking on  or turn it into a ringtone by clicking on . Unless you are logged in, you will not be able to retrieve this Voki again, so do not close the Voki window until you are certain that you have posted it.
14. ***Do a victory dance – you’ve just created your first Voki!***

**Educational Application of Vokis**

Teachers can use them . . .

* A welcome to your teacher web site, blog, wiki, or ning.
* An explanation of the course, a topic, or an assignment.
* Add a “human element” to an online course.
* Helps to instruct auditory and/or visual learners.

Students can use them . . .

* Create avatars that look like them, and record an introductory message about themselves.
* Exchange avatars with e-pals around the world.
* Generate questions to ask their peers or e-pals in order to spark discussion.
* Foreign Language and ESL students can practice and listen to their own speech and that of their peers. An idea: students type text to be read in the computerized voice, and then they can record themselves later when they’re more comfortable. Focuses on writing, speaking, and listening skills!
* Create an avatar based on a character in a novel. The speech could be directly from the novel, or it could be scripted to describe an event from the point of view of the character.
* Create an avatar to represent a historical or current figure, and give an autobiography or a summary of an event from that person’s point of view.